

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00252 161429Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 ACDA-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /085 W
----- 107641

R 161340Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7649

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS GABORONE 0252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC, AO

SUBJECT: PRESS STATEMENT ON BOTSWANA RECOGNITION OF MPLA

REF: GABORONE 0251

1. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARCHIE MOGWE READ FOLLOWING
STATEMENT RE MPLA RECOGNITION ON FEB. 16 NEWSBROADCAST:
QTE IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN MY RADIO BROADCAST IN MID-JANUARY
I REPORTED THAT IN THE VIEW OF BOTSWANA NONE OF THE LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA SATISFIED THE CONDITIONS FOR RECOGNITION AS
THE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AND SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE
OF ANGOLA. IT WILL BE RECALLED ALSO THAT IN A SUBSEQUENT PRESS
INTERVIEW I STATED THAT BOTSWANA DID NOT NORMALLY MAKE PUBLIC
DECLARATIONS ABOUT ITS RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENTS EXCEPT
WHEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED.

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PAGE 02 GABORO 00252 161429Z

QTE IT IS EVIDENT THAT DAILY RADIO AND PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE

RECOGNITION OF MPLA BY DIFFERENT AFRICAN STATES AND THE CONTROVERSIAL NATURE OF THE ANGOLAN ISSUE HAVE HEIGHTENED THE NATION'S ANXIETY CONCERNING THE STAND OF BOTSWANA ON THE ANGOLAN QUESTION.

QTE IN RECOGNITION OF THIS ANXIETY, THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ANNOUNCE THAT IN ITS VIEW IT HAS NOW BECOME CLEAR THAT THE MPLA ADMINISTRATION IS IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ANGOLA. THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT THEREFORE RECOGNIZES THE MPLA AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA.

QTE. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND UNITY UNQTE.

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